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VIRGINIA MAN SENTENCED TO 150 MONTHS FOR FEDERAL SEX OFFENSE

BALTIMORE, Maryland - Thomas M. DiBiagio, United States Attorney for the District of Maryland, announced that Brett M. Gold, 34, of Fredericksburg, Virginia, was sentenced today by United States District William M. Nickerson to serve a 150-month sentence for traveling in interstate commerce for the purpose of engaging in a sexual act with a minor after having a prior sex offense conviction.

According to the court records, Gold engaged in numerous explicit sexual conversations over the Internet with an undercover FBI agent posing as a 13-year-old girl. During these conversations, which occurred between January 14, 2002, and March 13, 2002, Gold requested that the thirteen-year-old send photographs to his post office box address. Gold also instructed the girl not to put a return address on the envelope. During conversations, Gold made several requests to meet with the thirteen-year-old girl so that they could have sex. Gold also sent her several pictures displaying his genitalia. During several of the communications, Gold asked the girl if she was with the FBI or the police.

Gold is a convicted sex offender. He has been registered with the Criminal Record Exchange in Richmond, Virginia since May 2000. The registry has an expiration date of May 18, 2010. Gold was the first person with a prior sex offense conviction to be charged with a federal sex offense in the District of Maryland.

In addition to the sentence of 150 months of imprisonment, Gold will serve a period of five years of supervised release. His conditions of supervised release will include that he be prohibited from possessing or using a computer. No fine was imposed.

This case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Stephanie A. Gallagher.